In the Claims

Cancel claims 1-4, 7-15, 17-18, and 20-68.

Amend claims 5, 6, 16, and 19 as follows.

5. [Isolated] An isolated protein encoded by [the DNA of Claim 1] a ced-3 nucleic acid.

6. [Isolated] An isolated protein having the amino acid sequence of Figure 4 [Seq. ID # 19)] (SEQ ID NO: 19).

16. [Isolated] An isolated protein encoded by [the DNA of Claim 8] a ced-3 nucleic acid comprising a mutation.

19. [Isolated] An isolated protein encoded by [the DNA of Claim 17] an isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid which is structurally related to the *ced-3* nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18, wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid is hydrophilic in nature and has a serine rich region;

(b) a nucleic acid which is functionally related to the *ced-3* nucleic acid, wherein said functionally related nucleic acid encodes a protein that causes cell death, wherein cell